

Way to Amazonia 17

The women of the two tribes watched ricki and her dolphin swim away from the shore. They waved a farewell, shouting that she shouldn't go too far from the tribe. Polly followed her a while and croaked: `birds of a feather should stick together,' before she swooped back to the beach and landed on Marlies' shoulder.

The women embraced the No-More-Maid and the two returned dykes from the amazonian tribe, feeling very grateful for ricki's sacrifice, albeit that it wasn't a totally unselfish one.

The chief motioned everyone to follow her back to the village to celebrate. But first there were some serious things to discuss. They arrived at the village square. The mourning lover saw the group of women arrive and nearly fainted when she discovered her lost love among them. The reunion of the two brought tears into everywoman's eyes.

The chief ordered everyone to be seated. `Right,' she said, `thanks to ricki we have saved three women from a fate worse than death.' All assembled women nodded vigorously. `But we should stay very alert. Let us not forget how this has come to pass. There are people out there who don't want us here and they seem to use all possible means to drive us away.' `Hear, hear,' some women shouted.

`They have used a virus to mutilate this poor woman and to try to infect us all.'

The No-More-Maid, sitting next to the chief, smiled shyly. The chief put her hand on the Maid's head and looked at her with a friendly expression on her face. Or was it a **more** than friendly expression... It was hard to tell. `Who knows what they are up to next,' she continued.

`Wait a minute,' one of the eurosapphists said pensively. `Wasn't there a strange virus amongst **us** a short while ago?'

Eva, Shelly, Marlies and Jane H. looked at each other. Yes! The woman was right! This flu virus had bounced up and down the net between some of the most talkative members of the tribe. This could not be coincidence! Someone must have tried to infect them all. Was it only luck that had prevented the virus from spreading any further? Or was it the strength of the infected women that had killed it before it could do more harm?

But if a virus had spread through the net once, it could be done again. And what would happen to the women who were infected?

They all looked at the Maid with ricki's legs and everyone shuffled in another position to make sure their legs were far enough apart.

